你的權力來自於我一醫病關係中的依賴力

Your power comes from me: Power-Dependence relation between physicians and patients

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台灣的醫病關係在許多領域中是備受關注的議題,而醫病互動中的權力表現更是醫療界試圖扭轉的改革要點,並期望有朝一日醫病關係能朝向平等互動的模式進行。然而,權力並非憑空出現,一定是其來有自,想要改善以權力主導的互動模式勢必得找出權力從何而來。本文從社會學的角度切入,以 Emerson 的理論觀點為基礎,試圖找到醫病互動的支配力與其差異從何而來?進一步地探討醫病平等互動的可能性。

本文採用質性研究,使用實地觀察法與深入訪談,以中部某地區醫院的加護病房和南部的中醫診所為研究對象,本文藉由實地觀察能夠對醫病互動模式有直接的發現並透過病患的自述經驗以其深入瞭解病患在求醫歷程中的態度轉變。

研究結果顯示,醫病關係中的權力表現差異主要受三項因素影響:(1)病情差異,(2)病人的社會背景,(3)中西醫差異;而在此因素影響下,病患對醫生的依賴程度產生差異,醫生對病患的支配程度也呈現差異並且構成變動。依賴程度的差異與變動亦會清楚展現在病患求醫的連續過程中。然而醫病關係的支配模式根深柢固,以 Emerson 的觀點來看,有依賴就會使被依賴者對依賴者產生支配力;只要相互依賴的程度不相等,雙方之間的支配與影響就不可能均等,因此平等的醫病關係取決於能否在患者者醫生之間建立均等的相互依賴關係。

本研究呈現幾項不同於現有文獻的新視角: (1)權力概念的界定, (2)相互依賴與不斷變動的醫病關係, (3)支配力的來源。筆者除了期望藉由本研究能夠破除病患無權的迷思, 更希望能夠提供醫病雙方對於彼此的了解, 進一步地, 能夠發展出適合彼此的互動模式, 穩定與良好的醫病互動比強調平等的醫病關係更為重要。

關鍵字:醫病關係、依賴力、相互依賴、支配、求醫歷程

Physician-patient relationship has always been an issue in many fields, especially unequal power relationship, which is also the main point that the field of medicine is

trying to reform. By doing so, they hope to have an equal interaction. However, the power does not come without foundation; it has to be experienced for a long time. On the other hand, if we want to improve this kind of interactive model, we have to know where it from is. This study of Emerson's theory as the main conceptual tool is trying to figure out the questions. Furthermore I would like to find the likelihood of there being equality between physicians and patients.

This research adopts field observation and in-depth interview methods. The results show three main reasons which impact the physician-patients relationship and alter the power. The reasons are; difference of patients' conditions, the difference of the patients' societal backgrounds and the difference between Chinese medicine and western medicine. Due to the reasons, the power can not be equal, so the relationship between a doctor and their patient relies upon the balance of power in that relationship remaining equal. If the balance of power is upset, then the relationship changes between the doctor and their patient.